United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and Commander of UNIFIL meet with Lebanese leadership in Beirut on situation in southern part of country.

- Consultations with troop contributing governments to United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) continue at Headquarters.

- Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan to consult with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in Geneva on latest round of talks.

- Outer Space Committee begins commemoration of International Space Year 1992 at Headquarters; role of remote sensing highlighted at first of two meetings.

- Human Rights Commission acts on texts on South Africa, Cambodia, Afghanistan; mercenaries; economic, social, cultural rights.

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Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding, Assistant Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and the Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Lars-Eric Wahlgren, met today in Beirut with Lebanese President Elias Hraoui, Prime Minister Omar Karame and Foreign Minister Fares Boueiz.

According to the Secretary-General's Spokeswoman, Nadia Younes, Mr. Goulding stressed during those meetings that his visit was an expression of Mr. Boutros-Ghali's concern about the situation in southern Lebanon. He reaffirmed the Secretary-General's commitment to the full implementation of resolution 425 (1978). The parties also discussed the cooperation between UNIFIL and the Lebanese army and ways to develop it further.

The Lebanese leadership expressed appreciation for UNIFIL's work, especially in the last few days, and pledged its full support for the force.

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The Spokeswoman said Mr. Goulding was now on his way to Naqoura, headquarters of UNIFIL. Tomorrow he would visit UNIFIL's area of operation, including the sectors where the recent Israeli Defence Force incursion took place. He would then travel to Tel Aviv for a meeting with the Israeli Defence Minister.

In a separate announcement today, the Spokeswoman said the Secretary-General's Envoy to Libya, Mr. Vasiliy Safronchuk, had arrived in Tripoli over the weekend and was scheduled to meet today with Libyan Leader Colonel Muammar el-Qaddafi.

Mr. Safronchuk will convey to the Colonel a message from the Secretary-General in connection with the Security Council's request for cooperation in establishing responsibility for the destruction of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA flight 772.

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A United Nations spokeswoman said today that consultations with the troop contributing governments to the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) regarding the battalions and the force commanders were continuing at Headquarters.

She said that once the consultations are completed and approved by the Security Council, the intention was to bring the force commander, deputy force commander and the higher echelon of the troops to New York for "intensive briefings".

An advance mission drawn from the various battalions would then go to Yugoslavia, "in about two weeks' time", she said, with the mandate given to it by the Security Council. It would report back to the Council with a detailed plan and the revised budget estimates before the full deployment of the UNPROFOR.

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The Secretary-General's Personal Representative in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Benon Sevan, has left the region for Geneva to consult with Mr. Boutros-Ghali on his latest rounds of talks in Peshawar, Kabul, Teheran and Islamabad. On his way to the Swiss capital, Mr. Sevan will visit Riyadh to consult with officials in Saudi Arabia.

Before his departure from Islamabad, Mr. Sevan met President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif and senior officials of the Government of Pakistan. He briefed them on his latest round of consultations, particularly with regard to convening a gathering, or Iljas, of Afghans outside the region in order to reach agreement on a transition mechanism leading to the establishment of a government through free and fair elections.

Throughout his discussions, Mr. Sevan was given assurances of Pakistan's support for the Secretary-General's efforts. He expressed his confidence that

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with the support offered by Pakistan and the other governments and parties concerned, the "remaining difficulties on the road to peace in Afghanistan should be overcome".

The Secretary-General is in Geneva this week to address the opening of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, organized by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and to chair a United Nations inter-agency meeting.

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The importance of satellite remote sensing in monitoring the global and space environment was stressed this morning as the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space held the first of two special meetings in celebration of International Space Year 1992.

In a message read out by N. Jasentuliyana, Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stated that the main emphasis of United Nations activities for the Year would be on education and information, particularly for developing countries, in order to ensure that development proceeded on a sustainable basis.

During its two-week session, the Committee will focus on the use of space technology for the protection of the earth's environment and will pay attention to the development of indigenous capabilities, particularly in the developing countries.

It will consider progress in national and international space activities related to the earth's environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme. Other issues on the agenda include the use of nuclear power sources in outer space and questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.

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The Commission on Human Rights has recommended that the Economic and Social Council call upon all Governments to maintain sanctions against South Africa. It also acted on questions of Cambodia and Afghanistan, the use of mercenaries and human rights and extreme poverty.

Approval was also given to drafts dealing with human rights and economic adjustment policies, trade union rights and the Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

Among the texts, one on the situation in Cambodia, welcomed, among other things, the fundamental importance given to the observance of human rights in the provisions of the comprehensive settlement. It encouraged the Centre for Human Rights to develop its programme of human rights information throughout Cambodia, in coordination with the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAC) in Cambodia.

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Another draft, on the situation in Afghanistan, emphasized the need for an early start of the intra-Afghan dialogue for the establishment of a broad-based Government to ensure the broadest support of all segments of the Afghan people.

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